

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 177

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USDEL JEC PARIS 3539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 40TH PLENARY SESSION, FEBRUARY 8, 1974

1. SUMMARY. IN GVN DEPUTY PRIMIN VIEWS UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE THE SESSION TOOK PLACE AT THE DEPUTY CHIEF LEVEL. THI (PRG) TRIED OUT A NEW TACTIC, THAT OF A HUMANITARIAN APPEAL TO THE GVN FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE "THREE URGENT DEMANDS" IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE THE SVN POPULATIONS SUFFERINGS. (THE GVNDL INTERPRETED THIS AS A SOMEWHAT SUBTLER PRG DEVICE TO AVOID DISCUSSING THE GVN ELECTION PROPOSAL). PHONG (GVN) MADE A STERNLY-WORDED CONDEMNATION OF PRG-DRV MILITARISM AND EXPRESSED A CERTAIN DEGREE OF GVN DESPAIR OVER THE STALEMATED NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE FEBRUARY 15. END SUMMARY.

2. PRG "AMBASSADOR" THI SPOKE FIRST. HE TOOK AS THEME THE ALLEGED MISERY OF THE SVN POPULATION UNDER GVN RULE. IN A LURID DESCRIPTION OF ALLEGED CONDITIONS THI INCLUDED REFERENCES TO WIDESPREAD FAMINE, RAMPANT INFLATION, AND REFUGEES CROWDED INTO "CONCENTRATION CAMPS". CLAIMING THAT EVEN GVN STATISTICS ALLUDED TO 1.65 MILLION UNEMPLOYED, THI ALLEGED THAT TAXES WERE NEARLY DOUBLE THE 1973 RATES, TOWARDS A NATIONAL BUDGET 70PERCENT OF WHICH WENT FOR WAR, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

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3. THESE ADVERSITIES, THI CONTINUED, WERE THE CONSEQUENCE OF US POLICY. AFTER CRITICIZING PRISIDENT NIXONS STATEMENTS OF JANUARY 30 AND FEBRUARY 4 ON ASSISTANCE TO THE GVN, THI ALLEGED THAT THE US WAS SENDING 150 F5E AIRCRAFT AND FOUR GUAM-BASED 640-TON PATROL CRAFT TO RVNAF IN HYPOCRITICAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE AGREEMENT.

4. THI PLACED EMPHASIS UPON THE GVN AND PRG WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AIM OF RESTORING PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO SVN. HE REITERATED THE PRG "THREE URGENT DEMANDS", MAKING THEM THE IMPERATIVE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN AN "EARNEST APPEAL" FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. HIS CLOSING WAS THE RITUAL ATTEMPT TO PLACE FULL BLLAME ON THE GVN FOR THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS.

5. PHONG, DEPUTY CHIEF., GVNDEL, MADE A BRIEF, TERSE PRESENTATION. HE BEGAN WITH AN INDICTMENT OF THE PRG, CITING THE LATTERS CONTINUED PURSUIT OF ITS INFLEXIBLE POLICY-SEIZURE OF POWER IN SVN. INSTEAD OF THE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE AGREEMENT, THERE FOR, THE PRG AND ITS DRV SUPERIORS WERE INTENSIFYING THE WAREFARE AND HAD NEVER IMPLEMENTED THE CEASEFIRE IN ANY OF ITS ASPECTS.

6. TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, PHONG CONTRASTED THE FACT THAT THE GVN HAD ADVANCED THREE SUCCESSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND WORKABLE PROPOSALS WITH THE PRG "SERIES OF UNILATERAL ABSURD DEMANDS" ON THE SUBJECT. IN ITS "SIX POINTS" OF APRIL 25 AND "CLARIFICATION" OF JUNE 28 THE PRG WAS ACTUALLY SEEKING AVOIDANCE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, TO "A RIDICULOUS EXTENT". PHONG REAFFIRMED AND REITERATED THE LATEST GVN ELECTION PROPOSAL.

7. IN CLOSING PHONG SAID THAT THE GVN HAD NO HOPES THAT THE PRG WOULD UNDERTAKE REAL NEGOTIATIONS OR BEGIN CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON ELECTIONS. THE "CORTEGE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION" IN SVN WOULD BE ENTIRELY DUE TO THIS COMMUNIST OBDURACY.

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8. IMPROMPTU EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WERE BUT REPETITIONS OF POINTS IN THE PREPARED STATEMENTS. IT WAS AGREED TO MEET AGAIN FEBRUARY 15.
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